CLAIMS

1. An endoscope assembly comprising:

a housing,

an elongated lens tube having one end secured to said housing, said lens tube adapted for insertion into a cavity of a body,

a lens tube assembly contained in said lens tube which optically relays an image from a free end of the lens tube to said housing, said lens tube assembly extending substantially the entire length of said lens tube,

a housing lens assembly which receives the image from said lens tube and presents said image exteriorly of said housing,

a source of light radiation coupled to said housing,

means for directing radiation from said light source through said lens tube assembly.

2. The invention as defined in claim 1 and comprising a source of infrared light radiation, wherein said source of light radiation comprises a source of visible light and wherein said directing means further comprises means for selectively directing radiation one of said sources through said lens tube assembly.

3. The invention as defined in claim 1 and comprising an infrared camera and wherein said housing lens assembly comprises a confocal lens assembly optically connected in series with said infrared camera.

4. The invention as defined in claim 3 wherein said infrared camera comprises a line scanning infrared camera.

5. The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein said source of radiation comprises a laser.

6. The invention as defined in claim 5 wherein said laser is a laser diode.

7. The invention as defined in claim 6 wherein said laser has a wavelength of substantially 950 nm.